~~determining whether said mean of said wait time can be improved by reducing a mean of said fault tolerance time when said communications time, said service time and said fault tolerance time are mutually independent~~; and

~~switching from a first of said~~dynamically selecting use of one of a plurality of fault tolerance schemes to improve user perceived performance of the system~~to a second of said plurality of fault tolerance schemes when said wait time can be improved by reducing said mean of said fault tolerance time~~.

2-18 (Cancelled)

19. (New) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein dynamically selecting use of the one fault tolerant scheme is based on improving one or more of communications time, service time and fault tolerance time, independently with respect to each other.

20. (New) The method defined in Claim 1 further comprising comparing the at least one measured wait time to a predetermined threshold.

21. (New) The method defined in Claim 20 wherein comparing the at least one measured wait time comprises comparing a mean of the at least one measured wait time to a wait time threshold.

22. (New) The method defined in Claim 21 wherein the wait time threshold is set by the application.

23. (New) The method defined in Claim 21 wherein the wait time threshold corresponds to a class of user interface events associated with the application.

24. (New) The method defined in Claim 21 wherein the wait time threshold is user changeable.

25. (New) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein the at least one measured wait time comprises one of a communications time, a service time and a fault tolerance time.

26. (New) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein the system is a distributed system.

27. (New) An article of manufacture having one or more recordable media storing instructions thereon which, when executed by a system, cause the system to perform a method comprising:

evaluating at least one measured wait time associated with at least one user interface event in relation to a desired level of fault tolerance associated with an application executing in a system; and

dynamically selecting use of one of a plurality of fault tolerant schemes to improve user perceived performance of the system.

28. (New) The article of manufacture defined in Claim 27 wherein dynamically selecting use of the one fault tolerant scheme is based on improving one or more of communications time, service time and fault tolerance time, independently with respect to each other.

29. (New) The article of manufacture defined in Claim 27 wherein the at least one measured wait time comprises one of a communications time, a service time and a fault tolerance time.

30. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for evaluating at least one measured wait time associated with at least one user interface event in relation to a desired level of fault tolerance associated with an application executing in a system; and

means for dynamically selecting use of one of a plurality of fault tolerant schemes to improve user perceived performance of the system.

31. (New) A method comprising:

determining a mean of at least one measured wait time associated with at least one user interface event associated with an application executing in a system;

comparing the mean of the at least one measured wait time to a threshold; and

selecting use of one of a plurality of fault tolerant schemes to improve user perceived performance of the system to reduce fault tolerance time when communications time, service time and the fault tolerance time are independent with respect to each other.

32. (New) An article of manufacture having one or more recordable media storing instructions thereon which, when executed by a system, cause the system to perform a method comprising:

determining a mean of at least one measured wait time associated with at least one user interface event associated with an application executing in a system;

comparing the mean of the at least one measured wait time to a threshold; and

selecting use of one of a plurality of fault tolerant schemes to improve user perceived performance of the system to reduce fault tolerance time when communications time, service time and the fault tolerance time are independent with respect to each other.

33. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for determining a mean of at least one measured wait time associated with at least one user interface event associated with an application executing in a system;

means for comparing the mean of the at least one measured wait time to a threshold; and

means for selecting use of one of a plurality of fault tolerant schemes to improve user perceived performance of the system to reduce fault tolerance time when communications time, service time and the fault tolerance time are independent with respect to each other.

34. (New) An article of manufacture having one or more recordable media storing instructions thereon which, when executed by a system, cause the system to perform a method comprising:

obtaining a wait time of at least one user interface event occurring in the distributed system, the wait time including at least one of a communications time, a service time and a fault tolerance time;

determining whether a mean of the wait time is greater than a predetermined mean wait time threshold;

determining whether the communications time, the service time and the fault tolerance time are mutually independent when the mean of the wait time is greater than the predetermined mean wait time threshold;

determining whether the mean of the wait time can be improved by reducing a mean of the fault tolerance time when the communications time, the service time and the fault tolerance time are mutually independent; and

switching from a first of the plurality of fault tolerance schemes to a second of the plurality of fault tolerance schemes when the wait time can be improved by reducing the mean of the fault tolerance time.